

In the Specification:

Replace paragraph 20 with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] FIG.1 schematically illustrates a conventional rotator switch 10. Rotator switches are described in greater detail in U.S. Patent ~~Application No. 09/954/192 No. 7,814,431~~, the contents of which is hereby incorporated by reference, and the two above referenced U.S. patents.

Replace paragraph 24 with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] Formation of switch 10 is detailed in U.S. Patent ~~Application No. 09/954/192 No. 7,814,431~~. As further detailed in this US Patent ~~application~~, ingress commutator 16 has m inputs and m outputs, and may be best described as an m-state interconnect. In each of its m states, each of the m inputs is connected to one of the m outputs. Although each input may be connected to any output, all m sequential inputs are presented at m sequential outputs, in the order of the inputs. The state of the commutator 16 controls the offset between inputs and outputs. Egress commutator 20 is formed in much the same way as ingress commutator 16, and acts as an m state interconnect having m inputs and m outputs. As such, ingress and egress commutators 16 and 20 function to cyclically interconnect t each tandem buffer 18 to each input buffer 12 and each output buffer 14. Cyclic operation of commutators 16 and 20 allow data at a particular input buffer 1 to be loaded into a tandem buffer 18, and thereafter unloaded at a destination output buffer 14.

Replace paragraph 26 with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] US Patent Application No. 09/954/192 No. 7,814,431 further discloses a rotator switch including more tandem buffers than inputs or outputs. As disclosed, these extra tandem buffers may be used as redundant buffers that may be used to switch traffic through the switch in the event of a failure.

Replace paragraph 27 with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] FIG. 2 illustrates a rotator switch 20 exemplary of an embodiment of the present invention. Like the switch disclosed in US Patent Application No. 09/954/192 No. 7,814,431, switch 30 includes more tandem buffers 38 than inputs. As will become apparent, however, these excess tandem buffers are used to provide capacity allowing switch 30 to switch incoming data at its inputs, and overhead, typically in the form of headers. Conveniently, as will become apparent, switch 30 does not require that data is transferred to and from each of the tandem buffers 38 at a rate in excess of the line rate. Instead, the increased numbers (and therefore capacity) of tandem buffers 38 and commutators 36 and 40 allow more data to be transferred per cycle of commutators 36 and 40, thereby increasing overall throughput of switch 30.